

Book Club—3
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I Want to Trust You, but I Don't

A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. ³His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings ... ⁴While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.

1 Samuel 25:2-4 NIV

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. ... 1 Samuel 22:2 NIV

... they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited. ¹⁰... "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. ¹¹Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat ... and give it to men coming from who knows where?" 1 Samuel 25:9-11 NIV

One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. ¹⁵Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. ¹⁶Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. ¹⁷Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him." 1 Samuel 25:14-17 NIV

What we don't trust, we will try to control.

There's a big difference between control and stewardship.

I will trust God. My job is to be obedient to God. God's job is everything else.

God, You are good.

God, You are good to me.

God, You are good at being God.

Show me someone to forgive, someone to bless, and rich evidence of Your goodness and faithfulness all around me.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8 NIV

It's going to cost us something to trust God with all of our heart, but it'll cost us more if we don't.

Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 1 Samuel 25:18 NIV

As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her ... ²¹... “It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. ²²May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!” When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. ²⁴She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. ²⁵Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. ...” 1 Samuel 25:20-25 NIV

Humility is not a position of weakness; it's a position of great strength.

The safest place for us is on our face before the Lord.

“And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. ²⁸Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. ²⁹Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. ” 1 Samuel 25:26-29 NIV

“When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, ³¹my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant. ” 1 Samuel 25:30-31 NIV

David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. ³³May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. ³⁴Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

³⁵Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.” ³⁶When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until daybreak. ³⁷Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. ³⁸About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died. ³⁹When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head.” Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. ⁴⁰His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, “David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife.” ⁴¹She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, “I am your servant and am ready to serve you ...” ⁴²Abigail quickly got on a donkey ... 1 Samuel 25:32-42 NIV

“... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NIV

Being brave is not always something you feel. It’s something you do.

Do brave until you become brave.

Your life is not a tragedy. It’s a testimony that God is your Rock and your Redeemer.

TALK IT OVER

Read **John 16:33**. What are some of the “troubles” people have in the world? How does Jesus bring hope?

Talk about a time when you let go of control and trusted God with the outcome of a difficult situation. What did you learn as you trusted God with the unknown?

Share about an area in your life where you aren’t trusting God with the outcome. What are some practical steps you’ll take toward surrender this week?

Start the *I Want to Trust You, But I Don’t* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/trustyoplan